

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. No new matter has been presented.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 9-16 are allowed, and for the helpful suggestion for amending claim 1.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Udagawa, U.S. Patent No. 5,880,781 in view of Kobayashi, U.S. Patent No. 6,750,911. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to clarify that a high voltage is applied throughout the summation process. As noted by the Examiner, in Udagawa, a low voltage is applied during summation. Kobayashi likewise fails to teach or suggest the claimed feature. Thus, claims 1 and 7 are allowable over the cited art. Claims 3 and 4 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Udagawa in view of Kobayashi and further in view of Hattori, U.S. Patent Application No. 20050012826. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5 and 6 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies and the fact that Hattori fails to overcome the deficiencies of Udagawa and Kobayashi. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

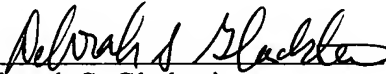
Claims 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Udagawa in view of Kobayashi and further in view of Yu, U.S. Patent 6,034,366. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2 and 8 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies and the fact that Yu fails to overcome the deficiencies of Udagawa and Kobayashi. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 524642000500.

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Respectfully submitted,

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